

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Mehran border crossing resumes trade after two-week hiatus**

The Director General of Customs of Ilam Province announced that the Mehran border crossing has resumed its commercial activities and export of goods after two weeks. After a short break after Arbaeen rituals, the commercial activities of Mehran customs resumed on Saturday, Sohrab Kamari told IRNA. Businessmen of the province and other parts of the country can export their commercial goods as of Saturday from the Mehran border crossing to Iraq. The commercial activities of the border crossing were stopped to facilitate the visitors' transportation, he added. On average, 700 trucks and trailers carrying export goods pass through the Mehran border crossing every day.

**China, Iraq main buyers of Iranian goods in four months**

China and Iraq were the main importers of Iranian goods in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20 to July 22, 2024).

In this period, over 65 percent of Iran's non-oil goods were exported to five countries: China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey and Afghanistan, Mehr news agency said in a report.

Iran exported 47,978 tons of non-oil goods (with crude oil, kerosene, and fuel oil excluded), valued at \$17.436 billion, in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, showing a 4.5 and an 8.15 percent growth in volume and value, respectively compared to the same period last year.

Iran exported \$4.778 billion of products to China, the report said, adding that Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Afghanistan imported \$3.622 billion, \$2.365 billion, \$1.679 billion and \$701 million of products from Iran in this period respectively. Meanwhile, Iran imported 12,592 tons of goods, valued at \$19.949 billion, in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, showing a 5.75 and a 1.53 percent growth in weight and value, respectively, compared to the last year's corresponding period, the report added.

**Russia 'first destination' for Iranian vegetables exports: *Lawmaker***

By Sadeq Dehqan & Reza Abesh Ahmadlou  
Staff writers

Russian market is the first destination for Iran's exported vegetables and summer crops, said a member of the Agriculture Commission of the Parliament adding that neighboring countries are interested in vegetable products of Iran. Nadergholi Ebrahimi told Iran Daily that Iran's vegetables and summer crops enjoy high quality, delicious taste and fair, stating that Iran has a good opportunity in terms of the sustainability of the export of vegetables and summer crops.

"Currently, Persian Gulf countries, CIS states, and especially Russia are highly interested in buying Iran's vegetable and summer crops, as every day many containers send Iran's export products to export destinations of the countries."

In addition to CIS states and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, Iraq and the Kurdistan region, as well as Afghanistan, are among the important markets for the export of Iranian agricultural products, the MP said. "Iran's agricultural products are exported to almost all of Iran's 15 neighboring countries, and the Arab countries surrounding Iran are keen on Iran's meat and livestock products." Stating that the main added-value



of our products for export belongs to processing sector, he noted that if we sell our products unprocessed, the country won't have so much benefit.

"Our profit in export will be doubled by processing agricultural products, for example, in a condition where apple is sold 5,000 to 6,000 tomans (10 cent) per kilo, but if it is sold in the form of canned, the price of each apple will hit 100,000 tomans (\$2)," the lawmaker explained.

Attractive markets have been opened for Iran's agricultural products, so if the work flow in the field of export is handed over to unions and cooperatives, we will definitely face an increase in exports and further expansion of export markets, Ebrahimi noted. "Many of these cooperatives and unions have shown good performance in the export field by using the existing capacities and opportunities in order to continue the export, fetching forex and new

methods that they have in finding new target markets as most of our exports are now carried out by these unions and cooperatives." Referring to the approaches and plans of Gholamreza Nouri Qezeljah, the minister of agriculture of the 14th government, the MP said the minister enjoys successful experiences in the field of agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture, while Nouri Qezeljah has served for three terms as an MP. "Nouri Qezeljah is familiar with

all the issues and challenges of the country's agricultural sector as he is aware of the details of the seventh development plan in the agricultural sector," Ebrahimi said. "Accordingly, as it has been covered and emphasized in Nouri Qezeljah's plans, if we want to save the country's agricultural sector, we need capital and financing. One of his solutions for implementing this goal is that he can use different financing methods to prepare capital in this sector," he concluded.

**Russia's Solyanka Port ready to expand cooperation with Iranian traders: *IRISL***

Russia's Solyanka Port is ready to develop and expand cooperation with the main traders of grains and Iranian private sector owners of vessels, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) Group. More than 1.6 million tons of grains have been exported from Astrakhan ports to the northern ports of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 20, 2024), the director of Solyanka Port has said, reported Tasnim News Agency. Solyanka Port embarked

on investing and purchasing the grain terminal with a silo capacity of 33,000 tons and loading capacity of 150 tons/hour in line with increasing its strategic role in the trade transactions between Iran and Russia. Solyanka Port is located northwest of the Caspian Sea and is one of the ports in the Russian Federation. In 2010, the IRISL Group bought a part of the shares of the Russian port so that Iranian vessels can enter Russia without delay. Now 53% of the ownership of Solyanka Port belongs to Iran.

**Why are the possibilities of a Gaza cease-fire diminishing?**

By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

**PERSPECTIVE**

A cursory look at the situation in the Middle East suggests that the likelihood of an immediate cease-fire in Gaza seems increasingly remote. Although the United States appears to be actively engaged in cease-fire efforts, its actions run counter to preventing both the cease-fire and the Israeli plans for genocide. When US President Joe Biden proposed conditional, phased cease-fire terms in May 2024, the US administration did not anticipate that Hamas would immediately accept these terms on June 1st. This acceptance by Hamas had already gained United Nations approval. If President Biden had been informed that Hamas would agree to these cease-fire proposals, the US administration might not have pursued it at all.

However, Israel's traditionally duplicitous actions shielded President Biden from any backlash, while a new Pandora's box was opened by the assassination of senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur and Hamas's chief negotiator Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran. Cunnings Israel, in line with its set objectives, aims to seize Palestinian lands in Gaza and the West Bank by continuing the genocide and repeatedly forcing Palestinians to migrate, so it can expand illegal Jewish settlements.

The Israeli aggression in Gaza has two clear objectives: First, to continue the series of land grabs that began in 1948 and push Palestin-

ians towards the deserts of Jordan and Egypt's Sinai. At this juncture, the leadership of Egypt and Jordan deserves praise for blocking Israel's malicious goals by preventing Palestinians from entering their countries. Israel's second insidious objective is to significantly weaken the resistance forces in the region, and the US appears to be standing alongside Israel in achieving both of these aims. It is impossible for the US to take any real action against Israel because America still needs Israel.

Over the past decade, as the West has gradually reduced its dependence on oil, it was assumed that Israel's significance in intimidating the Arabs had diminished compared to the last seven decades. Experts monitoring US and Western foreign relations suggested that Israel was gradually slipping down the priority list of America and the West. However, in 2018, Russia emerged as a powerful force in the Middle East and quickly established a strong foothold in the region, leaving the US and the West astonished. Then, during the same period, China began to make significant investments in the Middle East, positioning itself as a major stakeholder in the region. This compelled the US to continue supporting Israel's genocide and human rights violations. The US's provision of additional military aid to Israel, the supply of dangerous bombs, avoidance of UN peace efforts, and pushing displaced Palestinians toward famine all indicate that America respects Israel's desires more than it values a Gaza cease-fire. US mediation efforts regarding a Gaza cease-fire appear not only dubious but also malicious. On Sunday, the New York Times reported that, like Israel, the US is also

deploying significant resources to locate Hamas's newly elected leader Yahya Sinwar. In this effort, the US is supplying Israel with underground search radars in large quantities, while American intelligence agencies have been tasked with restricting Yahya Sinwar's communications. It is clear that the U.S. and Israel are not only aligned in their desire to harm Hamas but are also competing to outdo each other. Given this situation, cease-fire efforts in Gaza can be seen as mere political posturing, misleading the resistance forces under the guise of peace. Hamas and other resistance groups, along with Iran, which is ready to retaliate for violations of its security, must take immediate action. Without creating existential threats for Israel and American bases in the Middle East, the war against humanity in Gaza cannot be stopped. On July 21, 2006, nine days into Israel's 34-day war on Lebanon, when over 1,200 people had already been martyred, former US

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that an immediate cease-fire would be meaningless without first weakening Hezbollah's strength. At that time, both the US and Israel were on the same page in opposing the existence of Islamic resistance forces in the region. The US not only delayed the cease-fire but also accelerated the supply of precision-guided bombs to assist Israel in large-scale massacres. It has been 15 years since Israel's direct genocide in the Gaza Strip began, yet America, rather than showing any seriousness toward its own proposed two-state solution, has been focusing on maintaining the status quo. In the current Gaza war, too, the US is attempting to enforce the status quo by any means necessary, exerting every possible pressure on the Palestinians. Meanwhile, resistance remains the only viable path to compelling Israel to agree to a just cease-fire.